

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace the pending claims with the following listing of claims:

1-50. (Cancelled)

51. (New) A method of decontaminating an enclosed space, the method comprising the steps of:

creating a recirculating heated airstream within an enclosed space by: (i) continuously drawing air from an atmosphere within the enclosed space to form an air stream, (ii) heating the airstream while in the enclosed space, and (iii) emitting the heated airstream back into the atmosphere within the enclosed space; and

progressively introducing hydrogen peroxide/water vapour into the recirculating heated airstream until the atmosphere within the enclosed space reaches a dew point that causes the hydrogen peroxide/water vapour within the atmosphere to condense onto surfaces bounding or within the enclosed space so as to decontaminate the surfaces, the hydrogen peroxide/water vapour being produced by flash evaporating within the enclosed space an aqueous solution of hydrogen peroxide.

52. (New) The method as claimed in claim 51, further comprising removing the hydrogen peroxide from the enclosed space after the dew point has been reached and the hydrogen peroxide/water vapour has condensed on the surfaces.

53. (New) The method as claimed in claim 52, further comprising:

measuring the condensation of the hydrogen peroxide/water vapour on the surfaces by a monitor; and

terminating the step of introducing hydrogen peroxide/water vapour into the recirculating heated airstream when the measured condensation has reached a predefined level.

54. (New) The method as claimed in claim 52, further comprising measuring the condensation in the enclosed space at a number of different locations by condensation monitors to ensure that condensation has taken place throughout the enclosed space.

55. (New) The method as claimed in claim 51, further comprising terminating the step of introducing hydrogen peroxide/water vapour into the recirculating heated airstream when a predetermined concentration of hydrogen peroxide/water vapour in the atmosphere has been reached.

56. (New) The method as claimed in claim 55, further comprising:

using biological indicators in the enclosed space to determine when the predetermined concentration of hydrogen peroxide/water vapour in the atmosphere has been reached; and

removing the hydrogen peroxide from the enclosed space after the hydrogen peroxide/water vapour has reached the predetermined concentration.

57. (New) The method as claimed in claim 51, further comprising delivering the heated airstream carrying the hydrogen peroxide/water vapour as a jet within the enclosed space.

58. (New) The method as claimed in claim 57, further comprising delivering the heated airstream carrying the hydrogen peroxide/water vapour in a universally rotating jet to distribute the hydrogen peroxide/water vapour throughout the enclosed space.

59. (New) The method as claimed in claim 51, further comprising using one or more fans within the enclosed space to disperse the hydrogen peroxide/water vapour throughout the enclosed space.

60. (New) The method as claimed in claim 51, wherein the aqueous solution of hydrogen peroxide from which the hydrogen peroxide/water vapour is produced contains 30 to 35% hydrogen peroxide and a balance of water.

61. (Withdrawn - New) The method as claimed in claim 51, wherein the hydrogen peroxide/water vapour further comprises peracetic acid.

62. (Withdrawn - New) The method as claimed in claim 61, wherein the aqueous solution of hydrogen peroxide from which the hydrogen peroxide/water vapour is produced comprises 15% hydrogen peroxide, 0.5% peracetic acid and a balance of water.

63. (New) The method as claimed in claim 51, further comprising removing the hydrogen peroxide by circulating the atmosphere containing the hydrogen peroxide/water vapour over a catalyst.

64. (New) The method as claimed in claim 51, further comprising removing the hydrogen peroxide from the enclosed space by using a heating/ventilation air conditioning system communicating with the enclosed space.

65. (New) The method as claimed in claim 51, further comprising:

forming a plurality of separate recirculating heated airstreams within the enclosed space; and

progressively introducing the hydrogen peroxide/water vapour into each of the plurality of separate recirculating heated airstreams.

66. (New) The method as claimed in claim 51, further comprising controlling the steps of creating a recirculating heated airstream and progressively introducing the hydrogen peroxide/water vapour from outside the enclosed space.

67. (New) The method as claimed in claim 51, further comprising dehumidifying the atmosphere within the enclosed space to reduce the relative humidity thereof to a predetermined level prior to progressively introducing the hydrogen peroxide/water vapour into the recirculating heated airstream.

68. (New) The method as claimed in claim 67, further comprising using an air conditioning system to dehumidify the atmosphere within the enclosed space.

69. (New) The method as claimed in claim 51, further comprising using a portable apparatus in the enclosed space having a duct with a fan for delivering air through the duct, a filter for filtering air entering the duct, a heater for heating air passing through the duct and means for delivering hydrogen peroxide/water vapour to the air passing through the duct and a nozzle for delivery of air carrying hydrogen peroxide/ water vapour from the duct, the nozzle being rotated universally to distribute the hydrogen peroxide/water vapour throughout the enclosed space, circulation of air carrying the hydrogen peroxide/water vapour through the duct causing decontamination of the duct.

70. (New) A method of decontaminating an enclosed space, the method comprising the steps of:

activating a portable decontamination apparatus positioned within an enclosed space so that the decontamination apparatus performs the following functions within the enclosed space:

- (i) continuously drawing air from an atmosphere within the enclosed space to form an air stream within the decontamination apparatus;
- (ii) heating the airstream within the decontamination apparatus;
- (iii) flash evaporating within the decontamination apparatus an aqueous solution of hydrogen peroxide to form a hydrogen peroxide/water vapour;

(iv) introducing the hydrogen peroxide/water vapour into the heated air stream; and

(v) emitting the heated air stream containing the hydrogen peroxide/water vapour from the decontamination apparatus and into the atmosphere of the enclosed space; and

operating the decontamination apparatus positioned within the enclosed space until the atmosphere within the enclosed space reaches a dew point that causes the hydrogen peroxide/water vapour within the atmosphere to condense onto surfaces bounding or within the enclosed space so as to decontaminate the surfaces.

71. (New) The method as recited in claim 70, further comprising passing the air through a filter as the air is drawn from the atmosphere into the decontamination apparatus.

72. (New) The method as recited in claim 70, wherein the step of emitting the heated air stream comprises passing the heated air stream out of the decontamination apparatus through a rotating nozzle.

73. (Withdrawn - New) The method as claimed in claim 70, wherein the hydrogen peroxide/water vapour further comprises peracetic acid.

74. (New) The method as claimed in claim 70, further comprising activating a plurality of the portable decontamination apparatus positioned within the enclosed space.

75. (New) The method as claimed in claim 70, further comprising:

measuring the condensation of the hydrogen peroxide/water vapour on the surfaces; and

terminating the step of introducing hydrogen peroxide/water vapour into the heated airstream when the measured condensation has reached a predefined level.

76. (New) The method as claimed in claim 70, further comprising removing the hydrogen peroxide from the enclosed space after the surfaces have been decontaminated.

77. (New) The method as claimed in claim 76, further comprising removing the portable decontamination apparatus from the enclosed space after the hydrogen peroxide is removed from the enclosed space.

78. (New) The method as claimed in claim 70, further comprising positioning the portable decontamination apparatus within a room, the walls of the room bounding the enclosed space.